

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008***

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Selectmen present were James McIlroy and Michael Woodworth. Wes Moore joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Police Chief Reed, Town Clerk Sue McKinnon, Town Planner Clay Mitchell, Michael Price, Stephen Shope, Elliot Alexander, Scott Bogle, Miranda McGowan, Ed Wojonowski, Doug Porter, Eric Nichols, Mike Quinn, Fran Lane, Ram Madalli, Elizabeth Kegode, Dr. Hackett, and Nancy Kingston.

Chief Reed informed the Selectmen that yesterday was Officer Tanya Lampi's last day as a full-time police officer with the Town.

At 6:37pm the meeting went into a non-public session under RSA 91-A3:3 II. The meeting re-opened to the public at 6:55pm.

Town Clerk Sue McKinnon gave an update to the Selectmen on mail-in registration renewals. Other towns do charge for this service and the highest charge on record is \$5.00 per registration. Sue feels a \$2.00 fee is sufficient to cover the costs of offering this service and the Selectmen agreed. One month before a registration expires, a letter will be sent to the owner with the option to renew by mail instead of in person. If a resident opts to use this service, they will need to return the letter along with the proper checks and a self-addressed, stamped return envelope to receive their processed renewal back in the mail from the Town Office.

Sue also discussed the fact that she included \$300. in her budget for a laptop computer. The Selectmen authorized Sue to pay up to \$500. for the laptop.

Clay Mitchell gave an update to the Selectmen on his work in progress. He is helping the Planning Board and is working on the Capital Improvement Plan. He will work with a colleague to complete the CIP by the end of the month. He is trying to obtain information from the financial officer at SAU 16 to determine the final formula and figures for the impact fee.

Clay looked into sidewalk snow removal ordinances in other towns. Manchester has an ordinance in place, but does not enforce it. Rochester does not have an ordinance. Epping is the same as Newfields where the highway department takes care of snow removal. The public hearing on this issue takes place next Tuesday, January 29th.

The Master Plan will be started once the Capital Improvement Plan has been completed. The Planning Board seems agreeable with Clay's plan.

Prime Wetlands was discussed and the Selectmen asked why Tier 2 was included in its entirety. The Selectmen agreed with Tier 1 and a portion of Tier 2. The Planning Board did not agree with the Selectmen and voted to include all of Tiers 1 and 2.

Steve Shope and Mike Price are Newfields representatives to the Piscassic Greenway Management Plan Committee. They gave an update of the management plan progress and feel that the draft plan is good overall with a couple of exceptions. They will bring those exceptions to the attention of the Southeast Land Trust of NH.

Southeast Land Trust will give a presentation to the Town at a public hearing. The exact date still needs to be determined, but it should be in February.

The Selectmen thanked Steve and Mike for their work on this committee.

The Selectmen met with members of the Transportation Advisory Committee along with Town Counsel Fran Lane, Newmarket Town Administrator Ed Wojonowski, State of NH DOT Ram Madalli, Doug Porter of the DOT District 6, Scott Bogle of the Rockingham Planning Commission, and Miranda McGowan of the Strafford Planning Commission. The proposed bicycle lane was discussed. Fran stated that the Selectmen cannot enter into a contract with the State or Newmarket unless the townspeople approve this by vote. In order to put this to a vote, the cost to the Town must be determined. As the contract is now written, the cost is not broken down between the Towns.

There is not enough time to put together a Warrant Article for 2008, so it was recommended that additional research be done on this project in order to submit a warrant article in 2009. Eric Nichols said the committee will report back to the Selectmen with additional details.

Elizabeth Kegode informed the Selectmen that her new home is almost complete. She said she spoke with the Building Inspector about an Occupancy Permit and was told the existing dwelling needs to be removed before the OP can be issued as per her earlier agreement on the original Building Permit Application. Elizabeth would like to keep the existing structure for use as a storage building or barn. She said the septic system has been bulldozed, the electricity disconnected, the water line is disconnected and that the dwelling is not habitable. Wes asked if the faucets have been removed from the kitchen and bathrooms and Elizabeth said no, but she is willing to do so. The Selectmen feel that because this is a unique situation, further research is needed.

They suggested that Elizabeth speak with the Building Inspector again and clearly state to him exactly what she wants to do with the existing structure. She needs to keep in mind the time frame to file an appeal with the Zoning Board of Adjustment if she wants to appeal his decision.

The Selectmen are willing to work with Elizabeth, but they can only guide her and are unable to render any decisions. Elizabeth said that if she cannot obtain

permission to keep the existing building, she would be willing to let the Fire Department burn it for training purposes.

Nancy Kingston met with the Selectmen concerning her property on Main Street. She would like to change the zoning changed from a mixed use to single commercial use so that she may continue to operate the Newfields Country Store and use the upstairs of the building for a real estate office. Nancy said she had discussed this issue with the former Town Planner.

Clay would support mixed use in the Village District and James encouraged Clay to review the work that Reuben Hull has already done on this. The Planning Board would have to put forth an article for a single commercial use for the building. Nancy will contact the Planning Board Secretary to be put on the Agenda next month.

The Warrant Articles, 2008 Budget, and 2008 Default Budgets were signed.

The Selectmen were invited to participate in a Household Hazardous Waste Collection in early-mid July. The Selectmen are happy with the schedule the town has now with the Rockingham Planning Commission and will not make any changes at this time.

Correspondence from the State of NH DOT was reviewed and Brian Knipstein will be asked to bring the signs into compliance in order to avoid the loss of state and federal highway funds. Nancy will advise the DOT of this action.

Correspondence from the State of NH Highway Safety Agency will be given to Chief Reed regarding financial assistance for cities and town.

The Local Government Center asked for a donation from the Town for legal costs associated with the funding of the New Hampshire Retirement Plan. As the Town over-expended the Legal Line on the 2007 budget, they respectfully decline to participate.

The Rockingham County Commissioners Report is available at the Town Office for public review.

The Exeter Region Cooperative School District sent the new Town Assessment which lowers the Town's contribution to the school.

Michael made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 15th, 2008 Selectmen's Meeting. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Michael made a motion accept the minutes of the January 15th, 2008 Budget Hearing with minor changes. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

With regard to the complaint of damage to a mailbox on Halls Mill Road, this has been reviewed by the Road Agent and Wes volunteered to view the area of damage and report back to the other Selectmen.

The Selectmen approved the \$50.00 cost for a scanned copy of the 2007 Town Report. This will enable the report to be placed on the Newfields Website.

At 10:15pm the meeting went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II to discuss a personnel matter with Nancy.

At 10:28pm Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant